



7th
edition



In the series of

Martyrs of the Peninsula

Story of the Martyr

Talut al-Sana'ani

(Usama bin Ahmed Hafezullah al-Imrani)



In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.



Usama Ahmed Hafezullah from 'Imran, was a Muslim youth from among the sons of the Ummah of Glory and Excellence, a hafeez of the Book of Allah, Exalted and Sublime, and a resident of Sawad Hanash in Sana'a province. He finished his secondary education and then studied in the College of Shari'ah in Sana'a University.

Since childhood, he prayed to Allah to make him part of Aden-Abyan Army, and thought constantly of joining the Mujahideen, but he did not know how to reach them. One day he heard a commander from the land of Somalia say: ***"You must take the first step and Allah will grant you success in Jihad in the Cause of Allah"***. He heard this advice before he had become acquainted with the program of the Mujahaideen. So he took his kalashnikov and went to Aden then to the Zabab region, which is the farthest region on the coast and the closest to Somalia. He found the owner of a boat and said to him, *"I will give you this kalashnikov if you take me to Somalia."* He had nothing else with him but the handgun. The boat owner took the kalashnikov, gave him 70,000 Yemeni riyals and told him, *"I will point you out someone who will take you to Somalia."* He then took him to a military checkpoint. At that point, he was not aware that they were the front line for the Jews and the occupation. The soldier took him to prison (the Security Prison in Ta'iz province) where he remained for almost a month until an intermediary came and Allah released him.

He was not just an ordinary, committed person. Rather, the love of promoting virtue and prohibiting vice (*al-amr bal-ma'ruf wal-nahya bil-munkar*) and avowing the truth in Sana'a province was implanted in his heart. There are many (examples) of his stance on this:

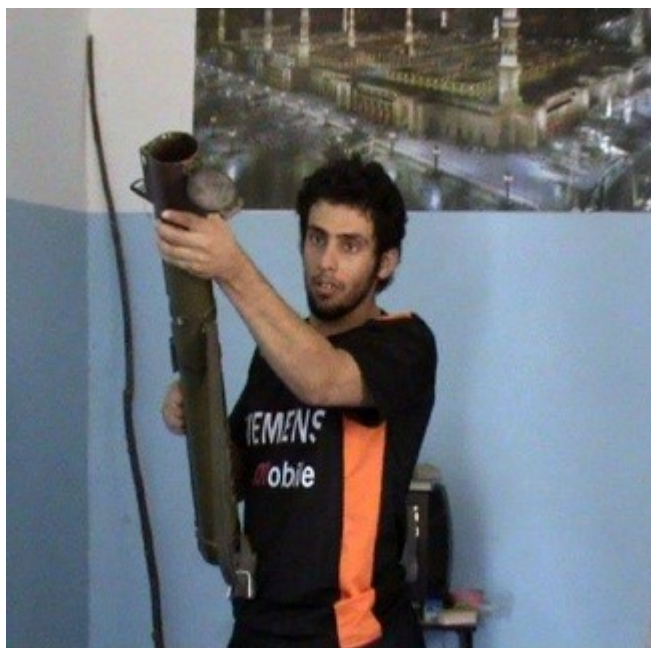
He, accompanied by a group of youths, set out to rectify vices, including by attacking a "Chinese Massage" in Sana'a (in the Hiddah district), and this was a place known for its debauchery and moral corruption. This led to its closure and the closure of other massage parlors. Praise be to Allah.

The brother Abdul Rahman al-Sana'ani recalled of him: *"One day while we were roaming around the streets of Sana'a we saw a group of National Security in their car who had turned their attention to a religious person. They began to insult him and hurl abuse at him. We were unarmed but brother Talut went up to defend him and we were on the point of fighting with them, if not for the intervention of some people present at that place who separated us. And I said to him: hadak Allah we are unarmed and they are armed to the teeth. We could have been imprisoned. He reminded me that Rasool Allah, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him, commanded us to aid the oppressed."*

He pursued members of political security and the spy network by striking at and exposing them, so that before he went forth on Jihad and migrated to his Mujahideen brothers, he struck one of them and said: *"As long as I am going, I must strike them before I go forth."* How good he is!

He was well mannered with his brothers and his smile almost never left his face. He was optimistic about victory and a good outcome. He, may Allah have mercy on him, bore concern for the Muslim Jama'a. He was in dread of any hypocrisy he saw in his own shortcomings and despised his own deeds. He wished never to see one of his brothers become a martyr saying: *"I beseech Allah that I never see the corpse of any of my brothers, rather I want to be the first of them to be martyred."*

Once a mission took him to Sana'a and upon entering the city, he encountered soldiers of the Taghut gathered at a checkpoint. He thought they were assembled there to apprehend him. A natural fear came upon him, and he reproached himself and said to himself: *"How should I be afraid of them, when no creature should be afraid except he who has a sickness in his heart."* Then Allah delivered him from them.



He was always trying to make his brothers happy. He was brave and audacious and incited his brothers to work for the Religion of Allah. He was concerned with physical fitness, and often trained his brothers on exercises designed to assist in defending oneself against enemies, because he was experienced in combat drills. He would tell his brothers: *"You must never show your enemies cowardice, fear or weakness. Rather you must be brave and audacious, even if there is fear in your heart."*

He had no fear in Allah of the reproach of the critic. If the brothers went out on an operation and fortune did not favor him to go with them, he would cry and say: *If you have not cried, then cry in obedience to the words of the Almighty:*

"Nor is there blame on those who came to thee to be provided with mounts, and when thou sadist, 'I can find no mounts for you,' they turned back, their eyes streaming with tears of grief that they had no resources wherewith to provide the expenses". [Al-Tawba: 92].

When he met with Sheikh Abu al-Bara'a al-Awlaki, may Allah have mercy on him, for the first time and he saw his courage, audacity and the strength of his sternness against the infidels and apostates and the love he bore for his Mujahideen brothers, in addition to the other beautiful and praiseworthy qualities that Abu Bara'a enjoyed, he said: *"This is the man I've been searching for. Abu Bara'a is of my own and I am of his!"*

He was among those who executed the operation carried out in Attiq on 11 Sha'ban 1431 AH. This was an ambush conducted against a Central Security patrol which resulted in the death of one officer and five soldiers. Talut himself killed three of the

enemies of Allah, emptying many rounds into their heads, which later frightened the hearts of many of their companions. He remarked after he returned: *"We have killed some of the enemies of Allah and now what remains is to kill our subjugation according to the words of the Almighty:*

"Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the garden of Paradise. They fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: a promise binding on Him in truth, through the Law, the Gospel and the Quran. And who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: that is the achievement supreme." [Al-Tawba: 111].

He would say towards the end of his life, advising one of his brothers: "If I find Allah, then I am not lost. If I lose Allah, then I will not be found." He would fast for a day and break his fast for a day. He would spend every night in prayer and supplication as he prepared himself for a martyrdom operation.

Two days before the martyrdom operation, one of the brothers saw him in a dream. He saw him as if the brothers were washing him – the brother Talut – with water and soap and there was a mortal wound in his head from a bullet. Then he died and at his burial the brother said: "Bury him without prayer" and they buried him without prayer. Talut interpreted the dream, saying: "I will be killed soon but my soul will not quickly depart until my sins are atoned for" (this is because of the presence of the water and soap). And it was as he said: he was not killed quickly, but died after an hour with a bullet in his head.

He would often repeat the words of the poet:

*O shaheed, he illuminated ** our way with light and fire
He raided the enemy ** following the path of the Messenger
He is radiant in the gardens of eternity ** for this is the abode of the martyrs
A taste of reward and kinship ** on a day when the feet will tremble*

On the day of the operation (13 Sha'ban 1431 AH) his zeal and motivation were unquestionable. He and Abu Bara'a said: "Today we attack them and they do not attack us. It will be victory or martyrdom." He then prayed and sought forgiveness. He gave one of the brothers his full name and telephone number, telling him: *"I will be killed in this raid and not return. If I am slain, contact my family and tell them not to mourn or weep for me, for I am a martyr, Allah Almighty willing."*

He then prepared himself. He was part of the assault group and at the beginning of the start of the clash with the soldiers of the Taghut, the group commander, Abu al-Bara' gave the command to launch the attack. While advancing on the enemy, and after emptying several magazines and throwing a hand grenade in striking the foe, he was struck by a bullet fired by one of the soldiers of the Taghut. He fell unconscious for approximately one hour then awoke and cried "*Allahu Akbar*". Those were the last words spoken by his lips: *Allahu Akbar*. Then he passed to the mercy of Allah Almighty as a martyr, advancing and not retreating - we regard him as such and Allah is his judge – while massacring the enemies of Allah and the soldiers of the Taghut Ali Saleh. His face shone with light as he raised his finger pointing on high to declare that he had been slain for the sake of *la ilaha illa Allah*. We beseech Allah to accept our brother among the martyrs and make the gardens of Paradise his abode. He is the Guardian and the Omnipotent.

May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our master Muhammad, and upon his family and companions.

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